

Subject: **Bill 5449 - Ablechild Response**
Date: February 26, 2008 11:00:31 AM EST
To: 'Sheila' <gallo@optonline.net>
1 Attachment, 791 KB · Save

TO: Public Health Committee

FROM: Ablechild.org, National Non Profit Parent Organization

RE: RAISED BILL 5449, AN ACT CONCERNING ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY CERTIFICATES BY LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES.

COMMENTS FOR THE RECORD OF PUBLIC HEARING

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/TOB/H/2008HB-05449-R00-HB.htm>

ABLECHILD OPPOSES BILL NUMBER 5449

Ablechild opposes allowing the issuance of emergency certificates to others that would bypass the due process of legal avenues afforded to the "respondent" or "person." Considering the serious consequences of being committed by the State, the legal protections afforded to individuals under the Constitution are at risk and therefore the proposed legislation may enable the violation of the rights of the individual. The safeguard of a police report allows the "respondent" or "person" the ability to review the allegations petitioned against them.

This bill will increase misdiagnoses based on the subjective nature of such psychiatric conditions and place the "respondent" or "person" at risk of being inappropriately prescribed and administered mind altering drugs which have significant side effects.

This bill fails to give the "respondent" or "person" the opportunity to contact their family members and have legal advice prior to any evaluation or treatment.

This bill fails to allow the "respondent" or "person" an opportunity for a second opinion which is highly recommended by all medical professionals.

We ask that our objections and opposition to this bill be recorded on the public record. Attached please find information regarding the risks associated with treating individuals with one class of psychiatric drugs. If the committee would like additional information on other drugs and their risks, please contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Respectfully,



Sheila Matthews
Co-Founder, Ablechild

203-966-8419

Summary of Adverse Reaction Reports Received by the FDA 2004 - 2006

33,754 Males 47,492 Females 88,017 Cases 104,980 Individual Safety Reports
(Gender was not included in some reports)

Suicidal Reactions					
	Reaction	SSRIs	SNRIs	Antidepressants	Total
	Completed Suicides	1 643	224	556	2,423

This table shows the adverse reactions for Completed Suicides reported to the FDA's MedWatch database for 2004, 2005 and 2006 where the listed psychiatric drugs were identified as the Primary Suspect Drug (FDA's term) responsible for causing these reactions. The drugs identified as the Primary Suspect Drugs causing these reactions are listed in detail at the end of the report.

The total suicides reported to the FDA from SSRIs, SNRIs and other antidepressants for 2004, 2005 and 2006 is **2,423**.

In order to get the average yearly figure, the total of 2,423 suicides was divided by 3 years (2004-2006), which equals 808 suicides per year.

The FDA admits that only 1-10% of side effects are reported to the FDA:

- "Adverse side effects of drugs are voluntarily reported by physicians and others to the FDA and drug companies. The FDA said in general, drug side effects are reported in only 1 percent to 10 percent of cases."¹
- "Studies suggest the FDA's Adverse Events Reporting System database captures only 1% to 10% of drug-induced side effects and deaths, 'maybe even less than 1%,' says clinical pharmacologist Alastair J.J. Wood, an associate dean at Vanderbilt Medical School in Nashville."²
- "MedWatch reports represent only 1% to 10% of the actual adverse drug effects."³

Giving the generous estimate that only 10% of side effects are reported to the FDA (instead of 1%), if there are 800 reported suicides per year, according to the FDA's estimate 8,000 antidepressant suicides occurred each year for 2004, 2005 and 2006.

There are 28 million Americans taking antidepressants in 2006.⁴ 8,000 suicides out of the 28 million Americans taking antidepressants is .028% of people on antidepressants committing suicide.

Based on the numbers of people taking antidepressants by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, the following estimates were obtained:

YEAR	NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON ANTIDEPRESSANTS	PERCENTAGE	TOTAL SUICIDES
1997	15,000,000 ⁵	divided by 0.028%	= 4,200
1998	16,800,000	divided by 0.028%	= 4,704
1999	18,600,000	divided by 0.028%	= 5,208
2000	20,400,000	divided by 0.028%	= 5,712
2001	22,200,000	divided by 0.028%	= 6,216
2002	24,000,000 ⁶	divided by 0.028%	= 6,720
2003	25,200,000	divided by 0.028%	= 7,056
2004	26,400,000	divided by 0.028%	= 7,392
2005	27,600,000	divided by 0.028%	= 7,728
2006	28,800,000	divided by 0.028%	= 8,064
GRAND TOTAL:			63,000

These estimates are calculated from 1997 when the first available figures on antidepressant use with an increase (in 2005).

***Drug List:**

Antidepressants

[illegible]**SSRI's**[illegible]**SPIES**

Cymazata (Duloxetine); Cymbalta (Duloxetine); Desipramine (Desipramine); Desipramine HCL (Desipramine); Desipramine 100 mg 150 mg (Desipramine); Doxepin (Venlafaxine); Duloxetine (Duloxetine); Duloxetine 30 mg (Duloxetine); Duloxetine 60 mg (Duloxetine); Duloxetine 90-120 mg (Duloxetine); Duloxetine HCL (Duloxetine); Dutonin (Ilfazodone); Dutonin 100 mg (Ilfazodone); Edronax (Reboxetine); Efectin (Venlafaxine); Efectin ER (Venlafaxine); Effexor (Venlafaxine); Effexor Depot (Venlafaxine); Effexor ER (Venlafaxine); Effexor LP (Venlafaxine); Effexor XL (Venlafaxine); Effexor XR (Venlafaxine); Effexor (Venlafaxine); Effexor 75 XR (Venlafaxine); Effexor EX (Venlafaxine); Effexo LP (Venlafaxine); Effexor XL (Venlafaxine); Effexor XL 150 mg (Venlafaxine); Effexor XR (Venlafaxine); Effexor XR 75 mg (Venlafaxine); Famine (Venlafaxine); Generic Serzone (Ilfazodone); Ilefador (Ilfazodone); Hetegrim (Desloramipramine); Reboxetine (Reboxetine); Serzone (Ilfazodone); Teylor Retard (Venlafaxine); Treclix (Venlafaxine); Trisdor Retard (Venlafaxine); Vandral Retard (Venlafaxine); Venlafaxine (Venlafaxine); Venlafaxine HCL (Venlafaxine); Venlafaxine XR (Venlafaxine); Ventrax (Duloxetine).

¹ "Use of Anti-Malarial Drug Lariam Previously Use by Peace Corps Veterans Linked to Mental Disorders, Suicide. (Part I)." *Insight Magazine*, 21 May 2002.

² Marilyn Elias. "New Antipsychotic Drugs Carry Risks for Children," *USA Today*, 2 May 2006.

³ "UK Parliament Report Re: Pharma Influence / US Regulators Comatose as 258 Fatal Suicides Linked to Neurontin." Alliance for Human Research Protection, 6 April 2005.

⁴ Evelyn Pringle, "GlaxoSmithKline Sued Over Paxil Birth Defects," *LawyersandSettlements.com*, 29 July 2006.

⁵ We started with 1997 because this was the first available figure on the number of people in the U.S. taking antidepressants, including the new SSRIs. "Trends in Antidepressant Use," *AHRQ News and Numbers*, 16 May 2005, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD, <http://www.ahrq.gov/news/nn/nn051605.htm>.

⁶ "Trends in Antidepressant Use," *AHRQ News and Numbers*, 16 May 2005, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD, <http://www.ahrq.gov/news/nn/nn051605.htm>.